

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A [[a]] flow controlling apparatus to control a flow rate of a working fluid discharged from a pump apparatus to a power steering apparatus, comprising[[;]]:

[[a]] an electric variable throttle;

a solenoid mechanism for varying an opening degree of the electric variable throttle based on [[a]] an electric signal from [[a]] an electric controller; [[and]]

a spool which slides in accordance with the differential pressure of the variable throttle due to an increase of the flow rate of the working fluid discharged from the pump apparatus so as to return an excess working fluid to a bypass passage connecting to a suction port of the pump apparatus; wherein and

~~the flow controlling apparatus comprising means for increasing flow rate of bypass flow to the bypass passage when rotating speed of the pump apparatus exceed predetermined value~~

an electric controller for controlling the solenoid mechanism to narrow down the opening degree of the electric variable throttle in accordance with the increase of the rotating speed of the pump apparatus when the rotating speed of the pump apparatus exceeds the predetermined value.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The [[a]] flow controlling apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the electric controller controls the solenoid mechanism based on a vehicle state.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A [[a]] flow controlling apparatus according to claim 1 to control a flow rate of a working fluid discharged from a pump apparatus to a power steering apparatus, comprising:

an electric variable throttle;  
a solenoid mechanism for varying an opening degree of the electric variable throttle based on an electric signal from an electric controller;  
a spool which slides in accordance with the differential pressure of the variable throttle due to an increase of the flow rate of the working fluid discharged from the pump apparatus so as to return an excess working fluid to a bypass passage connecting to a suction port of the pump apparatus; and  
means for increasing the flow rate of the bypass flow to the bypass passage when the rotating speed of the pump apparatus exceeds a predetermined value, wherein the means for increase increasing the flow rate of the bypass flow to the bypass passage is in the form of comprises a mechanical variable throttle disposed [[at]] upstream of the electric variable throttle so as to narrow down the opening degree of the mechanical variable throttle in accordance with the increase of the rotating speed of the pump apparatus.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The [[a]] flow controlling apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the flow controlling apparatus further comprising the electric controller controls for controlling the solenoid mechanism based on the vehicle state.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The [[a]] flow controlling apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the mechanical variable throttle comprising; comprises:

a movable rod disposed on the spool head of the spool, formed in a rod-shape and integrally movable with the spool; wherein

the opening degree of the mechanical variable throttle is controlled by the operation of the movable rod.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A [[a]] flow controlling apparatus to control flow rate of working fluid discharged from pump apparatus to a power steering apparatus comprising[[;]]:

~~various type of sensors~~ at least one sensor for detecting a vehicle state;

[[a]] an electric controller for generating [[a]] an electric signal based on the vehicle state detected by said at least one sensor ~~sensors~~;

[[a]] an electric variable throttle;

a solenoid mechanism for varying the opening degree of the electric variable throttle based on the electric signal from the electric controller; [[and]]

a spool which slides in accordance with the differential pressure of the variable throttle due to an increase of the flow rate of the working fluid discharged from the pump apparatus so as to return an excess working fluid to a bypass passage connecting to a suction port of the pump apparatus; wherein electric controller controls the solenoid mechanism in accordance with the vehicle state; and

~~a flow controlling apparatus further comprising~~ a sensor for detecting the rotating speed of the pump apparatus, wherein and the electric controller controls the solenoid mechanism so as to narrow down the opening degree of the electric variable throttle in accordance with the increase of the rotating speed of the pump apparatus when the rotating speed of the pump apparatus ~~exceeds~~ exceeds a predetermined value.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A [[a]] flow controlling apparatus to control a flow rate of a working fluid discharged from a pump apparatus to a power steering apparatus, comprising[[;]]:

~~various type of sensors~~ at least one sensor for detecting a vehicle state;

[[a]] an electric controller for generating [[a]] an electric signal based on the vehicle state detected by said at least one sensor ~~sensors~~;

[[a]] an electric variable throttle;

a solenoid mechanism for varying the opening degree of the electric variable throttle based on the electric signal from the electric controller; [[and]]

a spool which slides in accordance with the differential pressure of the variable throttle due to an increase of the flow rate of the working fluid discharged from the pump apparatus so as to return an excess working fluid to a bypass passage connecting to a suction port of the pump apparatus; wherein electric controller controls the solenoid mechanism in accordance with the vehicle state; and

~~a flow controlling apparatus further comprising~~ a mechanical variable throttle disposed [[at]] up stream of the electric variable throttle so as to narrow down the opening degree of the mechanical variable throttle in accordance with the increase of the rotating speed of the pump apparatus.